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LOGNOTE - Chief, Operations Group, 30 July 1986

1. [] At my request, MOD arranged for me to visit the OIR/Visual Media Branch and our TVRO facilities today. [] was my guide. She and two of our MOD staffers assigned to the TVRO, [] explained what the DI television grid consists of and how our live video feeds and "cities" tapes fit into the system. []

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I later met with branch chief [] and her deputy for a discussion of FBIS TV services to OIR. Linda remarked on how the service had improved within the past 4-5 months and reemphasized the DI analytical interest in video in general. She is concerned over the delay we now are experiencing in getting the Johannesburg tapes, but understands that the fault lies with the South African Government. Linda and I agreed that should the delays continue much longer, the importance of and interest in the Johannesburg tapes will decrease significantly. Linda feels that there is sufficient interest among the DI offices to replace Johannesburg with another city in the project. She will do some preliminary checking and get back to us. She asked about the Seoul-Pyongyang tapes and in discussing the topic it soon became clear that a memo she sent to FBIS on the issue had not made its way to Ops Group. I told her we'd check with LRB and within MOD before asking her to resend. []

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The only complaint Linda had about our service is the situation of our four staffers in the TVRO area. She believes they have little to no idea of their role in the overall collection business and no understanding of the importance the DI places in video reporting. As a result, she feels they are not as interested in the project and as alert as they should be. Julie agreed that there might be some validity in the complaint. I will arrange within the next two weeks to meet with all four staffers as a group and give them a thorough briefing on Ops and their role in our collection effort. I also will get two of them enrolled in next week's running of the FBIS Orientation Program. []

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Linda again raised the issue of rotating our people into OIR for tours to improve the situation. I told her that I could not honestly review the staffing picture until after our move to Reston and the start-up of Internet. []

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The last part of the visit was spent with EURA Italian analysts [] (I assume). We visited their work area, which is so crowded that we had to stand in an aisle to discuss the value of Italian television and to watch the TV monitor. In their responsibilities for writing on current intelligence for the NID, both analysts said that the live TV program they watch daily is their best source of information. It

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beats any other source by hours at a minimum, and Embassy reporting and the Daily Report by a day or so. They only wonder what else among Italian media is on satellite that we're not collecting. I told them that we planned to conduct such a survey from one or two European sites within the year and that eventually our media coverage of Italy would be vastly improved.

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(cc: D/FBIS, AC/MOD, C/LRB, C/ICCS)

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